

# Nashville Union.

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## Rebel Concentration.

We have never doubted the fact that the rebels have concentrated nearly all their available forces, outside of those under command of Joe Johnston, under Lee, in North Virginia; and that Grant has been fighting nearly Lee's entire force. We do not believe that Beauregard has a large army south of the James; and if he were not cut off by Butler, he could do little in reinforcing Lee.

The movement upon City Point was unexpected, and but few troops were left in the vicinity of Petersburg; the remainder had gone North. Our advance upon the Peninsula was looked for, but not in great force; and Lee left but few men in the rebel capital, relying upon his ability to reinforce it, if seriously threatened.

A letter written late in April in the Mobile Register, gives about as fair an exposition of the situation as we have yet seen. The writer says:

What piece have we to play against Burnside? There is Pickett, commanding at Petersburg, and the general, whoever he may be, commanding the forces between Weldon and Wilmington, but the two united are not strong enough to be regarded as anything more than pawns. Longstreet, I think, is the knight on which Lee relies to check Burnside's movement on his flank. In my opinion, Longstreet is not going into Kentucky, but is held in readiness to appear in the valley, just as Jackson did when McDowell was before Richmond, and McDowell lay at Fredericksburg, ready to join him.

In reference to a division of forces, the writer says:

But Lee will do neither the one nor the other. Instead of dividing, he will concentrate. He will not even send Pickett and Cleburne to attend to Vicksburg, advancing up the Peninsula.

The fortifications around Richmond being completed by the rebels, the writer says, he will entrust the defense of the capital to General Breckinridge, at the head of the local forces and reserves, while Pickett and others confront Burnside at Port Royal or elsewhere, for, discovering the natural strength of the country around Port Royal, Burnside may move up the north bank of the Rappahannock and unite with Grant's left wing extending toward Stafford Court House. Reinforced by Burnside and all the troops which can possibly be spared from the defenses at Washington, will Grant, failing in his effort to maneuver Lee out of Virginia, and even out of Orange county, essay to carry by storm the fortified line of the Rapidan, as he did the much stronger positions of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge—will he, think you, attempt this bold task while Longstreet hangs on his right flank and rear? He may, for luck has given him confidence, and time presses. Some "big thing" must be done before the 7th of June, the time fixed for the meeting of the Republican convention at Chicago.

Moreover, Grant knows the value of business and counts upon the unpopularity of Lee's army with the purely defensive attitude which it has assumed, as an entire army, on but two occasions, at Fredericksburg and on the third day of the second battle of Manassas.

This evidence, and that published elsewhere, ought to convince any one, that Lee's whole army was engaged in the eight days' battles; and also, that the rebel force south of the James is insignificant in numbers, though strongly entrenched, in excellent natural positions. Grant has beaten Lee with all the men he could concentrate; and since the battle, he has been reinforced to the extent of 175,000 men. There is no point between Spotsylvania and Richmond, so strong as that from which the rebels have been driven; and therefore we may expect a speedy and glorious termination of the present campaign.

## Lee's Army.

Since the defeat of Lee's army, rebel sympathizers in this city have been consulting themselves with the assertion that Grant had two men to his one. Now we know the strength of Grant's army at the time of the first day's battle; and he received reinforcements till the Monday after the last; but it would be manifestly improper to give the figures, at present; but he had not 20 per cent more than his adversary, whose lack of numbers was fully compensated by his breastworks. What the result will be, let the following documents tell.

Richmond letter (April 8) in Charleston Mercury: Grant has returned from his trip to Fortress Monroe, and General W. F. Smith is to be placed in command of the troops which will move upon Richmond from that direction. Burnside will probably land a few miles below Fredericksburg, unite his right with Grant's left, and by a combined movement force Lee out of his strong position on the Rapidan. As soon as Burnside's movement is discovered, Longstreet will probably make his appearance on Grant's right and rear.

A military man, "high up in the pictures," says 150,000 men can be concentrated for the defense of Richmond in 20 days. But weeks instead of days, and weeks of 50,000, and the military man will be slow if not stupid. The reserve militia of the towns and counties adjacent will be joined to the local defenders and placed behind the fortifications when the day of trial comes. Non-combatants will be ordered away. Those already being impressed, that's what "Reliable" says.

This letter was written a month before the first battle; and Lee occupied himself during the interval in concentrating troops, and he must have had, in all Virginia, over 100,000 men; and of this force at least 85,000 were with him during the eight days' battle.

But this is not all the evidence we have on the point. The following intercepted private letter from the chief clerk in the rebel War Department, to a member of Congress, and which first appeared in the New York World, which would hardly give papers adverse to the interests of the rebellion, contains some important facts:

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, WAR DEPARTMENT, RICHMOND, VA., April 18.

My Dear Friend:—The reason of my not answering your letter of the 23rd instant before, is that I could not do so without violating the regulations of the department. Indeed, I cannot give information on your desire now, without transgressing the rules; but, knowing your patriotism and discretion, I shall venture to do so.

General Lee's plans are perfected, and the President, Secretary, and even Granting B. are delighted with them; and it only remains for the departments and bureaus to carry out their parts of them. Your conjectures that the seat of war will be transferred to the North is correct, and you may depend that

this time General Lee will go prepared to remain there until the Yankees sue for peace. The intention is to give him one hundred and fifty thousand men. The troops will be withdrawn from points of minor importance, and as Lee has no doubt the number now, and we are hurrying up others from every direction. Enough will be left in and around the city to defend it assailed by the Peninsula, and enough to confront Meade, and to keep him north of the North Anna, or at all events north of the South Anna, while Lee will make a flank movement and push two columns northward, both Longstreet and Stuart going with him. These, in brief, are the plans for the summer campaign, and they will surely be carried out, unless, unfortunately, the enemy advances before Lee gets ready, and necessitates a change in the programme. If, unfortunately, Lee should be obliged to fall back, Beauregard will have command of the defenses of the city, while Lee, with all the force that can be spared, operates in conjunction with Johnston, and carry the war into Ohio. Thirty thousand can hold the capital against all the men the enemy can send here.

In a few days I will write you again more at length. Remember me to Mrs. Lewis and the girls. Truly your friend, B. R. WELLS, Jr.

From this, we learn that Lee had, on the 14th of April, as appeared by the files in the rebel war department, over 100,000 men; and these were reinforced largely. He evidently expected Grant to try the Peninsula route, leaving a small force to guard Washington, and thus permit him to try over the tactics of 1862. But Grant has foisted this little scheme, after the most approved style; and as for the last alternative proposed by Lee—conjunction with Johnston—that is about as far from the range of possibilities, as anything the mind of man could conceive.

## The Currency Question.

In view of the immediate practical importance of the currency question, and it stands second only to the necessity for the suppression of the rebellion—we are gratified at the late action of the business men—including bankers and merchants—of Chicago, by which they have agreed to unite their efforts in giving credit to the national currency, by ruling a discount upon all other bank paper.

Some of the bankers at first opposed to the measure, but finally they gave in, and every house assented to the action of the board of trade. The Tribune says:

The contest between Greenbacks and the Wild-cats, in this city, has resulted in the complete triumph of the former. Every effort made to break down and nullify the resolution of the Board of Trade has signally failed. The bankers who most strenuously opposed the time for the complete triumph of the former. Every effort made to break down and nullify the resolution of the Board of Trade has signally failed. The bankers who most strenuously opposed the time for the complete triumph of the former.

We rejoice that the sober second thought of the bankers has governed their final action, and that they have resolved to carry out the wise and patriotic programme of the Board of Trade. National Currency will soon have replaced the greasy, ragged, counterfeit, miscellaneous trash which has been imposed on the community. We are fighting for National unity. Let us also have a National Currency of uniform value and physiognomy, and which will be par with gold all over the continent, as soon as the rebellion is put down. The action of the Chicago bankers and the Board of Trade will reform the currency throughout this State and the Northwest, as Chicago is the emporium of the Northwestern commercial transactions. When the great financial crisis arrives, it will save the people of the West millions of dollars of loss.

The platform agreed upon by the bankers is as follows:

The undersigned bankers and bankers of the city of Chicago hereby agree that on and after Monday, May 16th, 1864, we will receive on deposit at par and for cash only legal tender notes of the National Bank notes, and the notes of such other banks as redeem at par in the city of Chicago.

It being understood that all checks drawn prior to May 10th, may be paid in the present currency, and all balances due between banks and bankers on Monday morning are to be settled on the same basis.

The Tribune, which has advocated the measure from the beginning, says that "the Railroad and Express Companies have also signified their intention to adopt the same rule, and Sunday next stands therefore as the dividing line in all prominent commercial transactions as that which separates the sheep from the goats. You may reckon on your wealth in wild cat on Saturday if you like, but the calculations will fall on Monday next."

"This, we opine, is about all that will be needed to set the matter right. The country people have long since been tired of the miscellaneous currency payment and have touched it cautiously. This action of the gentlemen whose names appear above will tend to make the article scarce, and even those who seek popularity by offering to take the stuff after others have refused it will soon be glad to come in out of the cold. The Augean stable has been cleared at last by the full tide of national currency; it has been a Herculean labor to accomplish it but the thing is done—Laudamus."

Jeff Davis' Message. Jeff Davis, on the 23d of May, transmitted his annual message to the rebel Congress. It differs materially from all its predecessors. It is nearly devoid of bombast, and is anything rather than hopeful. He refers to the prevailing opinion that this is to be the last year of the war.

Two days after it was read, Grant broke up camp, and started toward Richmond, five days after the series of battles, which resulted in the complete defeat of Lee, was commenced. We would like to read one of Jeff's Messages dated the 12th—ten days after that of the 2nd.

Distances from Richmond. The following table of distances from Richmond will be found of interest at the present time:

Miles.	Miles.
To Petersburg	35
To Washington	40
To Fredericksburg	45
To Port Waltham	50
To New Market	55
To Manassas	60
To Leesburg	65
To Warrenton	70
To Winchester	75
To Hagerstown	80
To Baltimore	85
To Philadelphia	90
To New York	95
To Boston	100
To New England	105
To Canada	110
To England	115
To France	120
To Germany	125
To Russia	130
To India	135
To China	140
To Japan	145
To Australia	150
To New Zealand	155
To South Africa	160
To Cape of Good Hope	165
To India	170
To China	175
To Japan	180
To Australia	185
To New Zealand	190
To South Africa	195
To Cape of Good Hope	200

## How is it Now?

The Columbus (Ga.) Times of the 2nd of April, says: The capture of Richmond will prove of greater importance to our enemy in a political point of view than in any other sense. With our capital in their possession, we would find additional inducements brought to bear upon us, but as material loss, its fall would be in no manner compare with the disadvantages which would result from a defeat of General Johnston and the occupation of Georgia that would follow. The first point is near our boundary line; the second is our great center. To lose the one would be as the loss of a limb; should we be driven from the other it will be a terrible blow at our most vital point. This we must admit, and our enemy knows it.

But how is it now? What will be the effect of a loss of Richmond, the destruction of Lee's army, the defeat of Johnston, and a move into the heart of Georgia? We would like to learn the opinion of our rebel cotemporary on the subject, just now.

The Mayor of Fredericksburg is making a magnificent speech, and an appeal, on Sunday morning, when our wounded began crowding in that town, the Mayor and some of his friends, in the full zeal of their rebellion, have a few guerrillas and marched 300 of the sufferers into the rebel lines. Slaughter and several other prominent citizens were forward put into the guard house—but this would seem a mild penalty for their crime.

## THE LATEST NEWS.

BY LAST NIGHT'S MAIL.

New York, May 15.—The following is just received from E. S. Sanford, President of the American Telegraph Company:

The official news is glorious. Sheridan has taken Ashland, torn up six miles of the railroad, destroyed locomotives, trains of cars, government stores, and a large amount of supplies. He fought and whipped Stuart's cavalry, killed Jeff Stuart, took two guns, and recaptured nearly two hundred of our men, including two colonels, drove in the rebels within their trenches at Richmond, and joined Butler.

On Friday night the 5th and 6th Corps of Grant's army made a move on our left, got in the rear of Lee's army, and drove him toward Lynchburg. An assault was to be made at daybreak, but as nothing has been heard, it is inferred that Lee continued his retreat during the same night. Grant's army is well supplied, and heavily reinforced. Good-bye to a Southern Confederacy!

E. S. SANFORD.

WASHINGTON, May 14—P. M.

Major General Dix:

An official dispatch from Gen. Sheridan, dated Bottom Bridge via Fortress Monroe 13th, states that on the 9th he marched against the enemy's right flank, and on the evening of that day reached the North Ann river without opposition. During that night he destroyed the enemy's depot at Beaver Dam, three large trains of 100 cars, two locomotives, 200,000 pounds of bacon, and stores amounting to one million and a half of dollars; also the telegraph and railroad track for about ten miles, embracing several culverts, railways, and bridges. The rebels were driven back to the Potomac, one Major, and several other officers.

On the morning of the 10th he resumed operations, crossed the South Ann at Fort Belvoir, and drove the rebels into camp. About daylight on the 11th he captured Ashland Station, and destroyed one locomotive, a train of cars, and two or three Government buildings, containing a large amount of stores, for, on the evening of that day, he reached the North Ann river without opposition. During that night he destroyed the enemy's depot at Beaver Dam, three large trains of 100 cars, two locomotives, 200,000 pounds of bacon, and stores amounting to one million and a half of dollars; also the telegraph and railroad track for about ten miles, embracing several culverts, railways, and bridges. The rebels were driven back to the Potomac, one Major, and several other officers.

At the same time a party charged down the Brook road and captured the first line of the enemy's works around Richmond. During the night he marched the whole of his command between the first and second lines of the enemy's works on the bluff overlooking the line of the Virginia Central Railroad, and the Mechanicsville turnpike. After demonstrating around the works, and finding them very strong, he gave up the intention of assaulting, and determined to recede to the Ashland station. The rebels were driven back to the Potomac, one Major, and several other officers.

A brigade of infantry, and a large number of dismounted men, attacked the divisions of Generals Gregg and Wilson, but, after a hard contest, were repulsed and driven behind their works. Gregg and Wilson's divisions, after killing the wounded, recaptured the Chickahominy. On the afternoon of the 12th, the corps encamped at Walnut Grove. On the morning of the 13th the march was resumed to Bottom's Landing. The command is in fine spirits. The loss of horses will not exceed 100. All the wounded were brought off except about 30, who were mortally wounded, and these were well cared for by the rebels. The loss of the corps was not over 350. The Virginia Central railroad bridge, over Chickahominy, of 160 feet length, and other bridge bridges, of 130 and 120 feet length, and the railroad for a long distance south of Chickahominy were destroyed.

Great praise is given the division commands of Generals Gregg, Wilson, and Cutler, and to the brigade command of Davis, Col. Gregg, Dupen, McIntosh, and Gibbs. All the officers and men behaved splendidly.

In a dispatch this morning from Admiral Lee, he reports to the Secretary of the Navy that the Richmond papers of yesterday mention the death of Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, shot in a battle with Sheridan.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON.

Official—The Major General Dix: An official dispatch from the battle-field at Spotsylvania C. H., yesterday morning at half-past six o'clock, states that during the night (Friday) a movement was made by the rebel army of 100,000 men, and an attack was made on our left, and an attack was made on our left, and an attack was made on our left.

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everything at that point is satisfactory. The surgical arrangements have never been so complete as now.

Sheridan's command had reached the left bank of Turkey Island at 2 o'clock yesterday evening and have formed a junction with the army of Butler.

E. M. STANTON. A correspondent of the Herald, writing from the battle-field at six o'clock, A. M., on the 13th, says: One of our staff officers, informed me that he conversed to-day with a rebel lieutenant, a prisoner, who gave him some interesting facts concerning the death of General Wadsworth. The general, he says, lived three days after he fell into their hands, and was very kindly treated. He was conscious up to the hour of his death, and his only regret was, not that he had fallen mortally wounded, but that he should die among the enemies of his country, for which he had given his life as a cheerful sacrifice.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—The total number of our wounded brought up from the battle-field so far is 12,700. Of this number 1,400 have been placed in the hospitals at Alexandria, and the rest distributed throughout the hospitals in this city. An army surgeon, who came up last evening, says we have about 15,000 remaining in the hospitals, and he is sending thousands by rail to soldiers in camp, who have made a beautiful recovery. The Battle of the Wilderness, which was fought on May 5th, was won by R. M. Lee, and the rest of the battle was won by R. M. Lee, and the rest of the battle was won by R. M. Lee.

New York, May 15.—The Herald's army correspondent of the 14th says the light continued through the afternoon of the 12th, and before night resulted in a victory to our troops. The fight was more terrible than in the morning, and we added largely to our prisoners, and punished the enemy severely. We have 5,000 prisoners. We have not lost half that number, and only three spiked guns. Every battery in the corps was engaged, averaging over five hundred rounds each. Nearly every photograph, the names of our officers, regiment, and the battery, have been engaged in. We are sending thousands by rail to soldiers in camp, who have made a beautiful recovery. The Battle of the Wilderness, which was fought on May 5th, was won by R. M. Lee, and the rest of the battle was won by R. M. Lee.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—P. M. The exchange of prisoners has been resumed. Aiken's Landing is agreed upon, by Commissioners Ould and Mulford as a place of exchange.

## Amusements.

THE SOLDIER'S DIPLOMA.

A beautiful Lithograph Camp Parade and Battle Scene, all highly colored—blank space in the center for your photograph, the names of your officers, regiment, and the battery, have been engaged in. We are sending thousands by rail to soldiers in camp, who have made a beautiful recovery. The Battle of the Wilderness, which was fought on May 5th, was won by R. M. Lee, and the rest of the battle was won by R. M. Lee.

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